

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SINAI 1380

FOR SSM ONLY

FOR KONTOS FROM HUNT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, UN

SUBJECT: CONSULTATION IN CAIRO

1. ARRIVED AT SFM JULY 10, AND STARTED TO WORK ON GENERAL MISSION ORIENTATION WHICH IS LIKELY TO TAKE MOST OF THIS WEEK. PLAN TO VISIT ISRAEL SUNDAY JULY 17 AND SPEND THREE OR FOUR DAYS MAKING CALLS AT EMBASSY, ISRAELI GOVERNMENT, UN, ETC. IN MEANTIME WANTED TO GIVE YOU A BRIEF REPORT ON THE CAIRO CONSULTATIONS.

(1) CONSULTED WITH AMBASSADOR EILTS, MATTHEWS, ET AL ON THURSDAY MORNING, JULY 7. THE AMBASSADOR WAS OBVIOUSLY IMPRESSED WITH HIS VISIT TO SFM AND REPEATEDLY COMMENTED ON THE EXCELLENT WORK BEING DONE HERE AND REASSURED ME OF HIS INTEREST AND SUPPORT. HE MENTIONED BRIEFLY THE TELEGRAM WHICH HE SENT YOU CONCERNING EFFICIENCY OF UN AND REITERATED THAT SUCH POINTS OF VIEW SHOULD BE CLOSELY HELD. I, OF COURSE, AGREED COMPLETELY AND TOLD HIM THAT I WOULD BE LOOKING CAREFULLY AT OUR POLICY ON BRIEFINGS AND GENERAL HANDLING OF VISITORS.

(2) FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMY WAS OUT OF TOWN IN ALEXANDRIA
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SO THE AMBASSADOR ARRANGED FOR ME TO CALL ON SALEH EL HASSAN, UNDER SECRETARY AT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THE AMBASSADOR ACCOMPANIED ME ON THIS CALL WHICH WAS STRICTLY PROTOCOL AND NO SUBSTANCE WAS DISCUSSED. I DID HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET AMBASSADOR GORBAL WHO JOINED US BRIEFLY. AMBASSADOR

GORBAL WAS MORE FAMILIAR WITH THE SFM OPERATIONS AND INDICATED

THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO VISIT US AT SOME FUTURE TIME.

(3) NICK THORNE HOSTED A SMALL LUNCHEON ON JULY 7 AT ONE OF THE HOTELS IN ORDER TO INTRODUCE ME TO GENERAL MAGDOUB, BRIGADIER HELMI, COLONEL FUAD SULTAN AND A COUPLE OF OTHER BRIGADIERS FROM SARELO. AS YOU KNOW, GENERAL MAGDOUB IS MOVING INTO ANOTHER POSITION IN THE MOW THOUGH HE WILL STILL HAVE CERTAIN OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR SARELO. HIS REPLACEMENT GENERAL HESSAN EL KETEB WAS OUT OF THE COUNTRY AND COULD NOT ATTEND. I BELIEVE THAT WE GOT OFF TO A GOOD START AND NICK FELT THAT IT WAS NOTEWORTHY THAT GENERAL MAGDOUB OFFERED TO BE OF ASSISTANCE SHOULD I HAVE PROBLEMS THAT WERE NOT BEING ADEQUATELY TAKEN CARE OF BY SARELO.

(4) ERNIE PETERSEN GAVE A VERY NICE RECEPTION FOR THE THORNES AND MYSELF THAT EVENING. THE GUEST LIST INCLUDED EMBASSY OFFICIALS, THE SARELO OFFICERS AND A SPRINKLING OF NON-AMERICAN GUESTS. THIS GAVE ME AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO SPEND MORE TIME WITH THE SARELO PEOPLE.

(5) ON SATURDAY MORNING JULY 9 NICK HAD A CALL FROM THE UN THAT GENERAL SIILASVUO WAS ARRIVING IN CAIRO LATER THAT MORNING AND WANTED TO SEE HIM. NICK AND I WENT TO UN HEADQUARTERS AT 1130 AND MET WITH THE GENERAL WHO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY GENERAL RAIS ABIN. AFTER INTRODUCTIONS IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT GENEGEL

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SIILASVUO WAS QUITE IRRITATED ABOUT SFM'S CRITICISM OF THE UN OPERATION. NICK WAS MOST APOLOGETIC ABOUT THE INCIDENT AND ASSURED THE GENERAL THAT IT WAS NOT SFM'S POLICY TO CRITICIZE UNEF, ITS ORGANIZATION AND OPERATIONS. THAT INsofar AS HE, THORNE, WAS CONCERNED ANY PROBLEMS WITH THE UN SHOULD ALWAYS BE TAKEN UP DIRECTLY WITH THEM. I SUBSCRIBED TO THIS VIEW AND TOLD GENERAL SIILASVUO THAT WE WOULD SEE TO IT THAT IN FUTURE OUR HANDLING OF VISITORS AND BRIEFINGS OF PRESS, ETC. WOULD BE MORE CAREFULLY CONTROLLED. GENERAL SIILASVUO MADE IT VERY CLEAR THAT HE WAS UPSET, THAT HE PARTICULARLY OBJECTED TO HAVING THE CRITICISM COME TO HIM THROUGH AN AMBASSADOR WHO HAD VISITED SFM. WHILE THE MEETING WAS CORRECT THE ATMOSPHERE WAS TENSE AND I WOULD SAY THAT WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO DO SOME FENCE MENDING INsofar AS GENERAL SIILASVUO IS CONCERNED.

(6) LATER ON SATURDAY, NICK AND I ACCOMPANIED BY GENERAL PFAUTZ, THE NEW DEFENSE ATTACHE, CALLED ON GENERAL GAMASY. GENERAL MAGDOUB WAS PRESENT. GENERAL GAMASY HAD BEEN SCHEDULED TO GO TO ALEXANDRIA THAT MORNING BUT DELAYED HIS DEPARTURE IN ORDER TO SAY GOOD-BYE TO NICK AND TO MEET ME. IT WAS A VERY PLEASANT, THOUGH SHORT, SESSION IN WHICH THE GENERAL WAS MOST WARM AND CORDIAL IN WELCOMING ME TO EGYPT AND IN COMMENTING ON NICK

THORNE'S EXCELLENT WORK AT SFM. HE ASSURED ME OF CONTINUING
GOE SUPPORT OF SFM ON ALL MATTERS. THERE WAS LITTLE OF SUBSTANCE
IN THE MEETING THOUGH THE GENERAL DID COMMENT THAT HE FELT THAT
SINAI II HAD BEEN POSSIBLE BECAUSE THE TIMING WAS RIGHT IN 1975
AND THAT HE FELT THE TIME WAS RIGHT THIS YEAR FOR A FINAL
SOLUTION. H SAID THAT HE WAS PERSONALLY PESSIMISTIC ABOUT
OCTOBER AS A STARTING DATE FOR GENEVA BUT THAT IF THE OTHER
SIDE COULD BE READY THEN HE WAS SURE THAT THE EGYPTIANS WOULD
ALSO BE PREPARED.

(7) SUNDAY MORNING JULY 10 WE DROVE TO ISMAILIA. AFTER
A BRIEF CALL ON COLONEL FUAD SULTAN WE CROSSED ON THE FERRY AND
PROCEEDED TO SFM. COLONEL FUAD IS MOVING TO THE SARELO OFFICE
IN CAIRO THIS WEEK WHERE HE WILL BECOME THE CHIEF OF LOGISTICS
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AND ADMINISTRATION AND HIS DEPUTY, NEWLY PROMOTED COLONEL
SIAD, IS TAKING OVER IN ISMAILIA. COLONEL SIAD HAS SPENT THE
LAST TEN YEARS IN ISMAILIA AND IS WELL AND FAVORABLY KNOWN TO
SFM SO OUR RELATIONSHIP IS ESTABLISHED.
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